

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Bob Lake, on February 8, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Jon Sonju, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)  
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Edward Hilbert (R)  
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)  
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)  
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)  
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)  
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)  
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)  
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 533, 2/2/2007; HB 559, 2/5/2007  
Executive Action: HB 469; HB 345

**HEARING ON HB 533**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:13 Rep. Duane Ankney (R), HD 43, opened the hearing on HB 533, Increase coal board funding.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:08:36 Willie Duffield, Executive Director, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties, Inc.

[EXHIBIT \(tah28a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah28a02\)](#)

00:11:42 Bob Gilbert, representing Rosebud County  
00:12:44 Bud Clinch, Executive Director, Montana Coal Council  
00:16:56 Todd O'Hair, Rio Tinto Energy America  
00:18:43 Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner  
00:21:30 Gary Amestoy, representing Richland County Economic Development Council  
00:22:55 Haley Beaudry, mining engineer  
00:24:12 Rep. Carol Lambert, HD (39)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:25:47 Rep. Cohenour  
00:26:37 Rep. Erickson  
00:27:47 Rep. Ross  
00:33:20 Rep. Erickson  
00:33:37 Steve Austin, Accounting and Allocating Coal Tax Revenues, Department of Revenue  
00:35:32 Rep. Jopek  
00:36:48 Jeff Martin, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division  
00:37:29 Rep. Ankney  
00:38:15 Rep. Lambert  
00:39:24 Rep. Cohenour  
00:39:54 Rep. Vincent  
00:40:05 Bud Clinch  
00:41:00 Chairman Lake  
00:42:55 Rep. Erickson  
00:43:25 Rep. Cohenour

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses: (con't)**

00:43:56 Chairman Lake  
00:44:57 Haley Beaudry  
00:47:01 Willie Duffield  
00:47:48 Rep. Cohenour  
00:49:35 Bud Clinch  
00:50:56 Rep. Lambert

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:52:42 Rep. Duane Ankney

00:56:33 Recess  
01:12:02 Reconvene

**HEARING ON HB 559**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:12:09 Rep. Ralph Heinert (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 559, Increase retirement income exclusion on state income tax.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:15:18 Jerry Driscoll, self

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

01:18:20 Brian Olsen, Income Tax Specialist, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:18:45 Rep. Ross  
01:19:15 Brian Olsen  
01:19:44 Rep. Cohenour  
01:20:32 Rep. Erickson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:21:39 Rep. Ralph Heinert

01:24:29 Rep. Erickson  
01:25:55 Brian Olsen

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 345**

01:27:29 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju moved that **HB 345 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:27:43 Chairman Lake

01:28:23 Rep. Cohenour

01:29:25 Rep. Jopek

01:30:16 Rep. Lambert

01:30:29 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju withdrew his motion.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 469**

01:31:05 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju moved that **HB 469 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:31:35 Rep. Cohenour

01:32:00 Chairman Lake

01:32:33 Rep. McAlpin

01:32:45 Chairman Lake

01:33:03 Rep. Cohenour

01:35:16 Rep. McAlpin

01:35:37 Rep. Lambert

01:36:32 Rep. Hilbert

01:37:47 Rep. Erickson

01:38:20 Rep. Nooney

01:38:39 Rep. Grinde

01:39:01 Rep. Cohenour

01:40:37 Rep. Nooney

01:41:07 Rep. Cohenour

01:41:46 Rep. Vincent

01:42:30 Chairman Lake

01:42:40 Jeff Martin

01:43:36 Rep. Hilbert

01:44:17 Rep. Cohenour

01:45:06 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** 11-7 by roll call vote with Reps. Bixby, Cohenour, Erickson, Grinde, Hamilton, McAlpin, and Pomnichowski voting no and Rep. Pomnichowski voting by proxy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 9:45 A.M.

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REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

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DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([tah28aad.pdf](#))**